

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 04884 220915Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 211747Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4689
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4884

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, NU
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES' REACTION TO GUERRILLA ATTACKS

SUMMARY: THE OFFICIALLY-RECOGNIZED CONSERVATIVE PARTY (PCN), THE NON-LEGALLY RECOGNIZED CONSERVATIVE PARTY FACTION HEADED BY DR. FERNANDO AGUERO (PCN-A), AND THE UNION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION (UDEL), THE COALITION OF DIVERSE OPPOSITIO IST ORGANIZATIONS PRE-SIDED BY PEDRO J. CHAMORRO, ISSUED MANIFESTOS DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS CALLING FOR A POLITICAL CHANGE. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT UDEL PLANS TO START A CAMPAIGN OF AGITATION DEMANDING SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION. END SUMMARY

1. THE PCN DOCUMENT STATES THAT THE RECENT CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN "GROUPS OF YOUTHS OF DIVERSE POLITICAL TENDENCIES THAT HAVE JOINED UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE NATIONAL SANDINIST LIBERATION FRONT" AND THE NATIONAL GUARD" CONSTITUTE AN ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE LITH THE ASPECT OF A CIVIL WAR." ACCORDING TO THE PCN, THE FSLN "IS FEED-ING ON THE YOUTH SECTOR OF THE HISTORIC PARTIES, ERODING THE FUTURE DEMOCRATIC RESERVES OF THE COUNTRY." THE PCN DOCUMENT DECLARES THE
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 04884 220915Z

NECESSITY TO PUT AN END TO BLOODSHED AND TO SEEK THROUGH LEGAL MEANS A POLITICAL CHANGE THAT WOULD PERMIT "THE PRESENT STAGNATION" TO BE OVERCOME. COMMENT: PCN DOCUMENT UNDERSCORES ESSENCE OF THAT PARTY'S MAIN PROBLEM: IT IS WIDELY PERCEIVED AS BEING AL ALL-TOO-LOYAL OPPOSITION WHICH OFFERS LITTLE HOPE FOR DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH THE UNDERLYING GRIEVANCE OF 40-YEARS OF SOMOZA RULE.

2. DR. AGUERO'S STATEMENT, A MUCH MORE HARD-HITTING DOCUMENT, STATES THAT THE RECENT "INSURRECTION" DEMONSTRATES THE DISILLUSIONMENT OF YOUTH WITH THE PRESENT AUTHORITARIAN AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. IT PLACES THE ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BLOODSHED WITH SOMOZA, AND WARNS THAT THE COUNTRY IS MOVING TOWARD DISINTEGRATION AND CHAOS. THE AGUERISTAS DEMAND THE CONSTITUTION OF A NATIONAL GOVERN-

MENT WHICH WOULD ISSUE A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND GUARANTEE THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, INCLUDING THE FSLN. ASKED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE WHETHER HE FAVORED A DIALOGUE WITH THE FSLN, AGUERO SAID THAT, AS THE PARTY STATEMENT DECLARED, HIS PARTY SOUGHT NOT ONLY A DIALOGUE WITH THE FSLN BUT THE INCORPORATION OF THE FSLN INTO THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY.

3. THE UDEL MANIFESTO STATES THAT "THE PRESENT SITUATION OF VIOLENCE IS THE PRODUCT OF INSTITUTIONALIZED VIOLENCE, ESPECIALLY THE LONG YEARS OF DICTATORIAL GOVERNMENT, THAT HAS EFFECTIVELY CLOSED EVERY CIVIC AND DEMOCRATIC CHANNEL FOR A SOLUTION OF THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS THAT NICARAGUANS SUFFER." BECAUSE OF THE INSTITUTIONALIZED VIOLENCE OF THE DICTATORSHIP, THE UDEL DOCUMENT CONTINUES, YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OBLIGED TO TAKE THE "DESPERATE ROAD OF INSURRECTIONARY ACTION." THE DOCUMENT CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION OF VIOLENCE CANNOT BE SOLVED BY REPRESSION, WHICH WOULD ONLY LEAD TO GREATER VIOLENCE IN THE FUTURE, AND THAT VIOLENCE CAN ONLY BE SUPPRESSED BY ELIMINATING ITS
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PAGE 03 MANAGU 04884 220915Z

CAUSES. THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE BY TRANSFORMING NICARAGUA INTO AN AUTHENTIC DEMOCRATIC, PLURALISTIC, AND INDEPENDENT SOCIETY. THE DOCUMENT THEN REITERATED UDEL'S FIVE POINT PROGRAM: 1) THE REPEAL OF THE RADIO AND TELEVISION CODE (THIS POINT IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE PREVIOUS DEMAND FOR AN END TO MARTIAL LAW AND CENSORSHIP), 2) GENERAL AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND EXILES, 3) APPOINTMENT OF A NEW (NON-SOMOZA) CHIEF DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, 4) RESPECT FOR THE FREEDOM OF ACTION BY POLITICAL AND LABOR GROUPS, AND 5) PARTICIPATION BY ALL SECTORS IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

4. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF THE DIFFERENCE IN TONE BETWEEN THE DOCUMENTS, THEY ALL SHARE THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE RECENT GUERRILLA ATTACKS CONSTITUTE A TURNING POINT OF SORTS. THE PCN DOCUMENT IN PARTICULAR REFLECTS THE CONCERN EXPRESSED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS DURING THE LAST DAYS BY PERSONS OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL VIEWS ABOUT THE INCREASING WILLINGNESS OF NON-MARXIST ELEMENTS, PARTICULARLY YOUNG PEOPLE, TO ABANDON THE NON-VIOLENT MEANS OF OPPOSITION ACTIVITY AND TO JOIN OR COLLABORATE WITH THE FSLN. THE CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING VIOLENCE IS MIXED WITH THE HOPE THAT THE ATTACKS, COMBINED WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S ILLNESS AND EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS UNFAVORABLE TO THE REGIME, WOULD PRECIPITATE A POLITICAL CRISIS WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO REALIZE THEIR

POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT UDEL PLANS TO
START A CAMPAIGN OF AGITATION THROUGH PUBLIC MEETINGS DEMANDING
SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION.
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TAGS: PINT, NU, (AGUERO, FERNANDO)
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